

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, and 17-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are amended and no claims have been cancelled. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are the independent claims. Example support for the amendments herein may be found at Para. [0040-0045] and Fig. 4 of Applicants' application.

Examiner Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dunn for her time and helpful comments during the telephonic interviews of March 11, 2009 and March 20, 2009.

During the telephonic interviews, Applicants discussed the art grounds of rejections based on US 2005/0019007 ("Kato"). In response to the rejections, Applicants proposed claim amendments to independent claim 1.

The Examiner agreed that amended claim 1 distinguishes over the Kato reference. Because Applicants have amended claim 1 as proposed and remaining independent claims 17-20 have been amended similarly, the art grounds of rejection have been rendered moot. More specifically, claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, and 17-29 are patentable over Kato and US 2004/0141436 ("Monahan") fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kato with respect to at least claims 19, 20 and 26-29.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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